

4-25-2019

## The Observer

Central Washington University

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# Breaking down the new general education program

Jack Belcher  
News Editor

Jason White hopes that more people attend the next presentation of the new general education program on April 29. White believes that this program is very important for students to understand.

White is the director of first year and exploratory advising, and he was holding a Q&A for the new program that is going to be implemented by fall quarter. This new program is going to be unique to CWU, although it has been inspired by other programs from universities across the country.

Students that are still completing their general education requirements have the choice to continue their education through the old system or transfer over to the new version. Switching over to the new program will not be for all students, but for some it could make completing their general education requirements easier. In order for students to find out which program will work better for them, there is a “what-if report” that is designed for this specific purpose. It can be found online at the general education website under “should I switch” and then “tools to help” section. Students need to make the decision to switch to the new program by the deadline on June 7.

Students that are going to be attending CWU for the first time in the fall will not have the option of taking the old program and will have to take the new one.

The program starts with the “Engage: First Year Experience” section that students must complete by the end of their first year at CWU. The credits included in this section are first year experience class, an academic writing credit and a quantitative reasoning credit.

The “Explore and Connect” section of the requirements sheet is the core of the new program. It requires that students must take a course in each of the knowledge areas on the left, and take three courses that are in the same pathway. If a student takes five courses in the same pathway, they will earn a transcript milestone. While it is not specified in the graduation requirement worksheet, it was made clear by Rebecca Pearson during the Q&A that students only need to complete one pathway with three or more classes.

The final section is the “Connect, Create, & Empathize: Culminating Experience.” In a student’s senior year at CWU, they will have to take a final class that has them connect what they learned during their general education.

Students must also complete UNIV 101 and year of a world language course, unless they have completed two years of a highschool language.

The new program will require most students to take 12 classes. Three of the classes will be in the “Engage” section, eight in the “Explore and Connect” and one final class in the “Connect, Create, & Empathize: Culminating Experience” section.

CWU General Education Program and Graduation Requirements, 2019-2020

I. Engage: First Year Experience

Students must complete these requirements by the end of the quarter in which they complete 60 credits.

First Year Experience	
Academic Writing I (Must earn C- or better prior to enrolling in Academic Writing II)	
Quantitative Reasoning	

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the General Education courses students must complete the requirements below.

UNIV 101: Transition to CWU (Must be completed in the first quarter at CWU)	
World Language (Two years of high-school language or one year of college language)	
Total Credits: /180 min	Upper Division: /60
Residency: /45	
CWU GPA (2.0 minimum):	Major GPA:

II. Explore and Connect

These courses can be taken any year. Students must take one course in each of the eight Knowledge Areas. Students may take courses from a single department or interdisciplinary program in no more than two Knowledge Areas. Students are required to take at least three courses in the same Pathway. Students can choose to take five or more of their courses in the same Pathway to earn a transcript milestone.

	P1. Civic & Community Engagement	P2. Health & Well-being	P3. Perspectives on Current Issues	P4. Social Justice	P5. Sustainability	P6. Ways of Knowing
Knowledge Areas	K1. Academic Writing II (Must complete by 90 credits)					
	K2. Community, Culture, & Citizenship					
	K3. Creative Expression					
	K4. Global Dynamics					
	K5. Humanities					
	K6. Individual & Society					
	K7. Physical & Natural World					
	K8. Science & Technology					

III. Connect, Create, & Empathize: Culminating Experience

Students will be required to complete one of the culminating experience options during their junior or senior year.

Culminating Experience	
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To learn more about the general education policies and the courses that fulfill each requirement please visit:

<http://www.cwu.edu/general-education/>

Updated 4/11/19

## CWU Rodeo team competes in college rodeo

Emma Johnson  
Staff Reporter

For every sport at CWU, there are home games in which students can come and cheer on their fellow Wildcats. The CWU Rodeo Team is no different. This past weekend, the CWU Rodeo Team held a rodeo at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. The rodeo was put on by the team, and had the help of many local sponsors. Every Labor Day Weekend, a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) rodeo is held at the rodeo arena, which is where the best of the best come to compete before the pro season ends. But during this time of year, it is the college level’s chance to compete in the arena that Craigs Hill overlooks.

CWU junior Michael Anderson is the president of the rodeo team. He is a local Ellensburg resident, and has been on the team since his freshman year. Anderson decided to become president after last year, when the team lost both its coach and its club director.

“I felt like it was time to step up and take charge, and try to make the best of the [CWU] rodeo team,” Anderson said. “So far we’ve done a great job coming together as a team.”

Anderson is a team roper, and he heads, which means he catches the



Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Team roping pair Trey Recanzone and Michael Anderson placed sixth in the Saturday and Sunday average.

horns of the steer instead of the heels.

“There’s nothing like team roping. It’s team effort, I mean you have five brains trying to work together. You have you, your partner, two horses and a steer,” Anderson said.

Anderson said competing at his level in a PRCA rodeo arena is a good experience, especially since it is so close to home. Anderson said he is more of a jackpot roper, so he probably would not want to pursue a professional rodeo career. Jackpot roping is team roping, for fun and money essentially.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

# Smoking age increased to 21



Photo Illustration by Georgia Mallett/The Observer

The legal age to buy tobacco or vape products will be raised from 18 years old to 21 years old. This will go into effect starting Jan 1, 2020.

**Dez Rodriguez**  
Staff Reporter

The legal age to purchase tobacco, e-cigarettes and vape products, with or without nicotine, was raised from 18 to 21 in Washington state. The law penalizes anyone who sells to underage buyers, usually with a fine and possible jail time and their license revoked. This goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee

signed the bill on April 5, making Washington the ninth state to raise the legal smoking and vaping age. The legislation does not affect reservations, who are still able to sell smoking and vaping products to 18-year-olds.

Ruze 509 is one of many vape stores in Washington that the new law is going to effect. Brendan Killeen, manager of Ruze 509, said the most common customers are from the 19 to 25 age range, with the oldest customer past 80

years old.

“We’re here to help people quit smoking. Usually it’s stuff in the .6 percent nicotine to 1.2 percent nicotine range,” Killeen said. “It was pretty great helping him quit smoking after smoking for 65 years.”

Killeen said menthols are one of the most popular items sold in the store. However, he believes the new law will drive people back to cigarettes because they’re easier to obtain.

“Realistically, corner stores don’t give a damn as long as they aren’t going to get fined for it,” Killeen said. “I’m not fearing for the business so much as the impact on the community’s health. There’s a lot of people that have already said that they’ll go back to smoking cigarettes.”

The issue of personal freedom was also mentioned by Killeen, pointing out the fact that people are eligible to be drafted for war at 18 years old, yet are not able to make their own purchase decisions with the new law.

Another critic of the new law is Duke Chang, owner of Central Market and Smoke Shop. Chang moved to Ellensburg 11 years ago because of the bigger market with college students and less competition than the west side. However, he believes his business might struggle when the law is implemented.

“Around 60 percent of my customers are under 21, so we’re going to lose some business, it sucks,” Chang said. “It’s dangerous because more people are going to try getting their stuff illegally.”

The most popular items sold to students at his store according to Chang are cigarettes, jul pods and vape juice.

Tobin Rewa-Ehley, a 21-year-old CWU student who supports the new law, said he started vaping at 20 years

old. According to Rewa-Ehley, he spent an average of \$25 a month on vape products but has made the decision to quit this year.

“What made me stop was it just got old and kind of a waste of money after I really thought about it,” Rewa-Ehley said. “It’s a good thing for the youth because it can really help with underage nicotine use.”

According to a press release by Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Washington state tobacco use takes up more than \$2.8 billion in annual health-care costs. Rewa-Ehley said the new law is only looking out for the safety of everyone.

“Addiction is a real problem for many people,” Rewa-Ehley said. “Whether people support the law or not, we can all agree that it will at least slow the process down and give people more time to think about what they put in their body.”

### Corrections

In the third issue of the Observer it was reported in the story, “Dolleman and Washington win primary: ready for general election,” that 0.6 percent of CWU students voted in the ASCWU primaries. This proved to be a mathematical error, and the number is actually 6.67 percent of students voting.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

# New programs seek to fight dropping retention

**Nick Tucker**

Senior News Reporter

A university's retention rate is the percentage of students who stay after their first year of attendance, and CWU's retention rate is dropping. In 2013 78.9 percent of students kept attending CWU after their first year, and in 2017 that number had dropped by 9.6 percent to 69.3 percent of students staying.

The reasons that students leave may be many, but looking at another statistic may show one of the biggest underlying reasons for this drop.

In the four years between 2013 and 2017, CWU has grown by over 30 percent. First-time/ full-time freshmen enrollment grew by 686 students from 1,416 to 2,102 students. This is an increase of 48.4 percent. According to Dean of Student Success Gregg Heinselman, the lowering retention rate may be due to growing pains.

"Growth always tests and challenges systems. It tests and challenges advising, class size [student/teacher ratio], for instance. That typically is a cycle that an institution will see, you grow, you measure the success of that growth, and you adjust your program to meet needs," Heinselman said.

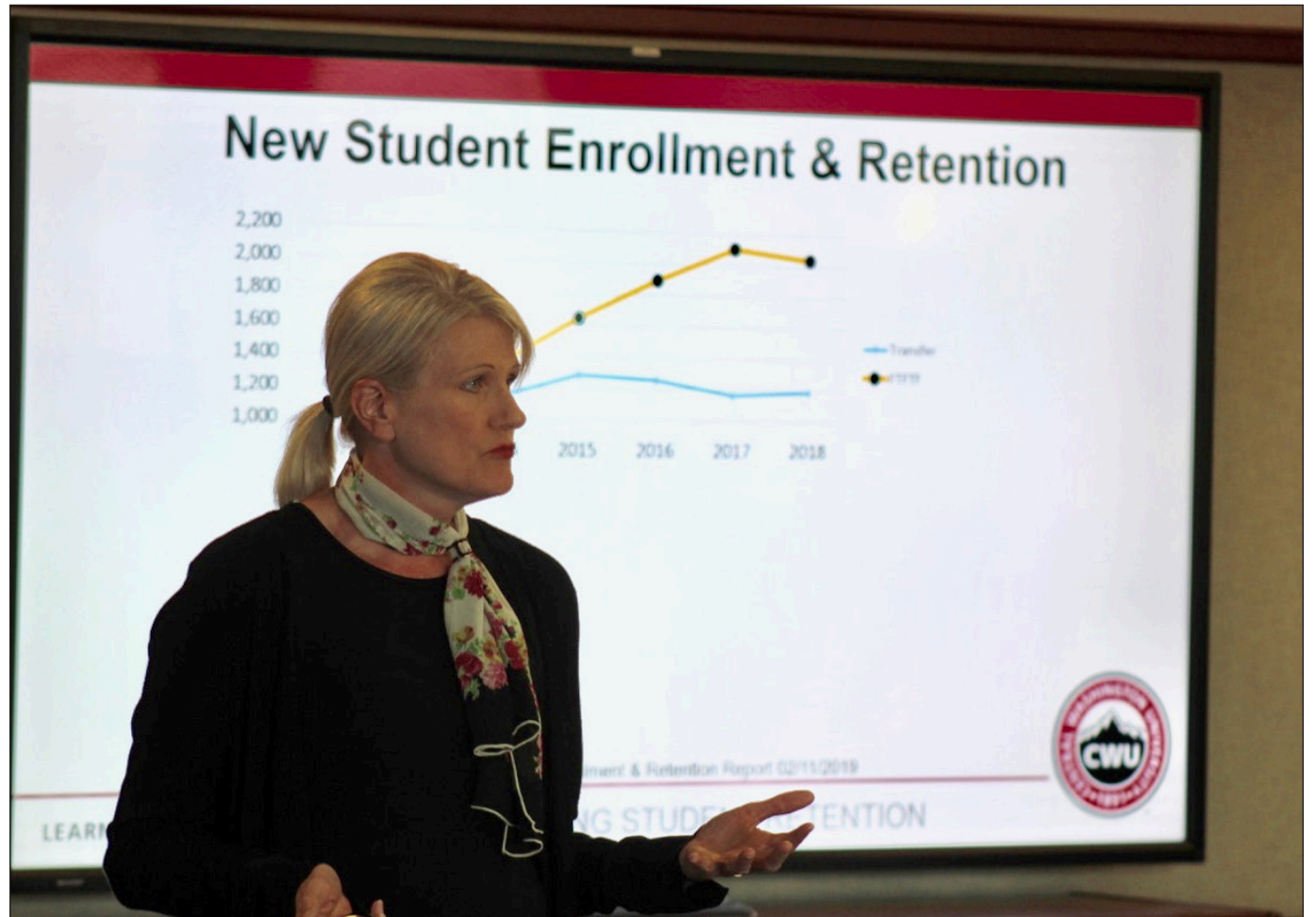
Although retention rates are just one small part of measuring a university's success, it is one that many CWU officials are making a concentrated effort on improving. One measure taken towards this has been the change in the general education requirements' structure. Largely driven by efforts from the general education department, the first year and exploratory advising department and provosts such as Associate Provost of Undergraduate and Faculty Affairs Dr. Gail Mackin.

"The faculty were very intentional about creating a program that would engage and excite students about a broader liberal arts curriculum," Mackin said. "But also understand that the skills and preparation that is intentionally inserted into the general education program is connected, it's thematic. It serves a purpose in enabling students to grow academically and personally as a Washington, national, and global citizen."

Both Mackin and Heinselman believe the new general education (GED) program will be a lot more flexible and will give more of an opportunity for students to explore new subjects rather than following a straightforward path. The ability to find a new course if another isn't the best is something that Heinselman stressed as important.

"If you're coming from that traditional high school and then next fall you're right into being a college student, you may be coming from a high school that didn't offer that variety of disciplines that we offer here at [CWU]," Heinselman said. "Or you may be that college student that thinks they know what they want to study but you haven't quite decided because you haven't taken classes in that subject matter. The new system, I think, opens it up and allows you to explore more."

In addition to revising the GED program, CWU will be introducing a first-year seminar program. These are small lecture courses to help students practice analytical skills and connect



Shawna Hettick/The Observer  
The problem of retention was brought to attention at the April faculty senate meeting. While new student numbers are rising, those students are not staying at CWU for as long as they previously were.

them to the faculty of different subjects. 51 sections are currently scheduled for the upcoming fall quarter.

While the majority of students who attend CWU started as freshman coming from high school, not all students began college here. Almost 1,500 students at CWU transferred from another higher-learning institution, and with their situation comes a variety of differences in their needs. Some students have taken classes equivalent to those offered as GEDs and don't need to waste their own time and money re-taking those classes. Some haven't gotten the chance to explore CWU's program options, and some just need help adjusting to the new environment. In an attempt meet these challenges, CWU is developing a transition center.

"Primarily, the goal is to assist students who are thinking about transferring to CWU to understand those requirements before they get here so they're taking the right courses, talking to the right professors, have the right advisors," Mackin said. "And then to assist those students when they get here in that first year before they've really assimilated."

More programs are being worked on in order to help bring retention rates back up while still allowing CWU to grow, as the university's capital master plan projects that between now and 2021 CWU will grow in enrollment from 11,400 to over 14,000 students.

According to Mackin, discussions on how to restructure the advising model are currently taking place, and officials and faculty are working on new ways of communicating with the former schools students attended to make sure that they have all of their requirements and can go forward confidently into their time at CWU.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

# No drought about it, Washington needs water

Gov. Inslee declared a drought in parts of Washington including the Yakima River Basin on April 4. This will likely harm the states economy, agriculture and fisheries.

**Nick Tucker**  
*Senior News Reporter*

Governor Jay Inslee declared a drought emergency on April 4 in three different ecological zones including the Yakima River Basin. Due to lowering amounts of precipitation and hot, dry forecasts for coming months, water supplies are predicted to be 74 percent of normal amounts according to the Washington Department of Ecology.

Dr. Clay Arango, a CWU biological sciences and environmental studies professor said that this is likely to cause bad economic losses for the region, with farmers losing crops and the income that comes with them. Crops like grapes, hops and fruit orchards might not be as high-quality or might be lost altogether, meaning that farmers might not make ends meet for the year. If this is the case they would have to take out crop insurance claims. Millions of dollars of crop insurance claims were taken out in 2015 when the region saw one of its worst droughts in recent history. Total economic losses for that year exceed \$1.2 billion according to current Washington Department of Ecology estimates, which are still being calculated as the region continues to see the long-term effects that a drought like this can have.

In addition to the impact on agriculture, fisheries will be severely impacted as a higher proportion of water is taken out of the local rivers to satisfy other needs. During the 2015 drought, fishing was suspended for several days by the Washington department of ecology due to the stress it would put on fish living in the warmer waters. This then went on to negatively impact the recreation and sporting businesses in the area. Ultimately the Yakima County estimates that 40 percent of the workforce in the Yakima River Basin is in water-dependent employment.

According to Arango, the people who are likely to be the most affected are junior water rights holders. Water rights holders are the result of policy in the western U.S. when the region was being settled by Euromericans from the eastern U.S. from the 1830s to 1850s.

“The idea is that a person had to bring the water to the land in order to improve the value, because everything is arid on this side of the mountains and if you can’t bring water, you can’t farm it, you can’t mine for gold,” Arango said. “So the idea of a water rights holder is that ‘first in time, first in right,’ if your water right is dated before somebody else’s, you get your full allotment of water first.”

In the early 1900s the federal gov-

line,” Arango said. “Because of that, any year if it’s a dry year, they might not get their allotment.”

According to Arango, trends show that the Yakima River Basin will see increasingly frequent and severe droughts in the future as a result of climate change. This was reaffirmed by Gov. Inslee when he declared the drought emergency.

“Climate change means that we will continue to see lower water supplies all over the state and we need to plan

include storage and reservoir improvements, irrigation improvements and delivery system improvements. A controversial approach being considered is to upgrade pump systems to take more water from from several lakes, including Kachess Lake which sits in the middle of the Snoqualmie Pass. This would drop the water level of these lakes, and has been fought by the owners of lakeside property which would decrease in value if the water



Photo from Wikimedia Commons,

Kachess Lake may be one of several lakes that will be pumped by the state to use as a reservoir. This is a controversial approach that is being fought by owners of lakeside property.

ernment started to claim water rights which had not been taken, mostly precipitation falling in the winter when farming isn’t taking place. The water was then stored behind dams and delivered to those who need it, mostly those who didn’t already have standing water rights claims.

“Those are the junior water rights holders, and they’re the last ones in

now for the impact,” Inslee said.

Because of the trend towards environmental and economic crisis, a coalition of water rights holders, fisheries, conservation interests, the Yakama Nation and several other stakeholders have formed the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, which is designed to stabilize the water supply using a multi-pronged approach. These approaches

levels drop too far.

“It’s pretty unique, it’s brought a lot of stakeholders together who normally don’t get along very well but they all have this common interest of water,” Arango said. “It’s a situation where the benefits are going to a lot of different users so, at least for now, everyone has a certain amount of interest in making it succeed.”

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Editor: Cassandra Hays



Mary Park/The Observer

Functional Junk Salvage is located at 400 W Fifth Ave. They specialize in turning old and otherwise useless items into functional pieces of art or furniture for people to purchase. The store is co-owned by Daniel Morton and Jaque Stanley.

# Upcycling store gives old items new purpose

**Mary Park**  
Staff Reporter

A steam tractor sculpture built out of rusty barrels, corrugated roofing panels and steel wagon wheels stand outside the front door of Functional Junk Salvage.

It is a sample of the collection that sits in the upcycling store located on the corner of West Fifth Ave. at Kittitas Street. Inside, the smell of wood, paint and rust wafts toward the entrance.

Songs like “Wild Things” or “What I Like About You” play in the background along with an industrial heater that hums steadily from the ceiling.

Daniel Morton, a 30-year-old man, stands at the front desk, scrolling through his smartphone and answering the occasional phone call. “Is there anything [specific] you’re looking for?” he asks each person who walks in.

Although there are some vintage items like china, a jewelry box, old cameras and even a piano, Morton, who co-owns the store with his mother, Jaque Stanley, says their main focus is to upcycle discarded or donated items that they see potential of being used for something else. They have repaired and upcycled up to 6,000 items in the past two years of its opening.

“Our country’s really wasteful,” Morton said. “I see so much go into the garbage when you can repair it and reuse it for something else.”

Stanley said around the months of May to June, she sees a lot of students moving out and throwing things away.

“We should all respect our resources and if possible, keep it out of the dumpster,” Stanley said. “We love history, and it’s sad to think that if we didn’t [repurpose] these items, they would’ve ended up on the dump.”

Morton and Stanley are a car mechanic and a carpenter respectively, and they

use their trades to repair or repurpose furniture and other items in the store. Things that can be easily found on the curb, the scrap metal yard or Craigslist, which Morton said he sometimes monitors, can be put together to create something new.

“That used to be 5-gallon paint can,” Morton said, as he points to a metal barrel with wooden table legs, an empty film reel, two handles on its sides and a door in the middle. It is now a table and a storage cabinet with a price tag that reads \$120.

Morton said he enjoys the “mixing and matching” of different textures and characteristics of each object.

“The rust paint is popular,” Morton said, pointing to a couple of rusty mannequin heads. He said it appeals to people because of the vintage look.

He does the metalwork and welding, and his mother does the woodwork and painting. Morton and Stanley also give each other critiques and ideas on how to make something better.

Stanley said that an idea for repurposing an object comes to her as an inspiration.

“It might sound strange, but sometimes [an object] tells me what it wants to be,” Stanley said. “It’s already made in my head.”

Functional Junk Salvage opened two years ago in spring 2017, in a building that once used to be a Kittitas County Dairy-men’s Association creamery in the 1930s to 1950s. Since then, it’s been a karate dojo and a furniture store among other things.

Morton said he and his mother had been looking at the building for some years when they only had a booth at Hidden Treasures, a store just around the block that also sells vintage and antique items.

“We were saving up to buy our own



Mary Park/The Observer

A steam tractor sculpture sits outside of Functional Junk Salvage. It was constructed using various pieces of scrap metal that would have otherwise been thrown away.

[building],” Stanley said.

Now, they have up to 10 vendors that rent a space and sell their goods. One of the vendors called Re-Purposed Metal, run by Michael Ziegan, makes drums and gongs out of air tanks, skull cast arts out of melted aluminum and more.

It takes several walks around the store to take notice of each object. A large Paladino chandelier looms over a vintage bird cage placed on a small table, a pair of wooden snowshoes hangs on the wall, a Campbell’s Soup crock pot rests on a shelf and many repainted chairs and lamps are found throughout the store.

In another room partitioned off, there are boxes containing wooden parts of all sizes, empty wine bottles and rosette plates. Huge industrial light heads lean on one side of the wall.

A middle-aged man in a black Under Armour cap walked in and strolled through the store. He pointed to a large projector in the back and asked, “Is this on sale?” Unfortunately, it wasn’t, but it brought up a memory for the man. “We

used to have it in high school,” he said.

There is a story attached to each thing in the room, small or big. Morton recalled one day, when a 40 to 50-year-old man on a motorcycle stopped by the store to look around and recognized a foot-shaped gas pedal that he had made when he was in middle school on the Westside.

It had been among other items in a box at the store. Sure enough, his initials were carved in the hand-casted pedal, and it was given to him for free.

More often, customers come in for something they have in mind. Ellensburg locals Joy Lessard and Patt Stevenson entered to browse through the store.

“I’m looking for something painted or adjusted in some way,” Lessard said. She said she enjoys looking at repurposed items that have been “given new life.”

“I’m on the hunt for a lid that’ll go well with my white porcelain pot,” Stevenson said. Stevenson said she is attracted to the rustic type of furnishing.

“It’s fun to look around, it’s kind of a hobby,” Stevenson said.



Editor: Cassandra Hays



Photos by Georgia Mallett/The Observer

The greenhouse has four different rooms with varying climates to suit the different types of plants grown there. Pictured above is the desert room, which houses cacti, succulents and other plants that require a dry climate.

# Greenhouse grows local appreciation for plants

Sean Quinn

Staff Reporter

Tucked away inside the Marshall Mayberry Arboretum next to Dean Hall is a place that's dry even when it's pouring rain outside. It feels like summer in there when it's really spring. The humidity envelops you with sweat while your lips crack and dry up just a step outdoors. This place, with a much different climate than ours, is the CWU Greenhouse. It's a place where CWU students can come to study, relax and even grab a plant or two.

The greenhouse, primarily used by the CWU Biology Department, is relatively the same size as a typical one to two bedroom home. Thanks to the power of large fans, pumped in moisture and a whole lot of electricity, the greenhouse allows hundreds of different plant species to grow.

It holds four separate rooms designed to simulate four unique climates: a jungle room, a tropical room, a desert room and a research room. These different rooms allow plants that would not ordinarily survive in the Ellensburg weather to grow and thrive in a place they are more familiar with.

Although the biology department technically runs the greenhouse, there is one individual who oversees the day-to-day operations. This individual is Jonathan Betz, who is an instruction and class support technician 3 for the biology department. While he has numerous duties for CWU, one of his main duties is to oversee the greenhouse. Betz has been in this role for 11 years.

What Betz appreciates the most about the greenhouse are the surprises and mysteries he sees in his work.

"There's a little bit of mystery... Each week, there's a different plant that's in bloom that may not be blooming at any given time," Betz said.

Because of this, Betz encourages those to come to the greenhouse every week for something different each time.

The history of the greenhouse goes back only a few decades. A former CWU biology professor and farmer by the name of John Carr was instrumental in the construction of the greenhouse.

"He was a well-loved biologist and



Sean Quinn/The Observer

Snorkel, an African sulcata tortoise, can be found roaming the desert room in the greenhouse every Friday.

botanist. He helped push for the greenhouse he built," Betz said.

Although he never met him in person, Betz heard wonderful stories about the man. He heard about Carr's great sense of humor and real love for plants. His legacy lives on in the greenhouse today. A large pot used to accept donations to keep the greenhouse running to this day is labeled as "John Carr Memorial Donations."

Alongside Betz and other CWU biology faculty and staff who maintain the building are work-study students from the different science majors. One student is Safyre Reese, who assists Betz in the care of the greenhouse. Reese started working for the greenhouse roughly a year ago. She wanted to make it clear that it's not just students from the College of the Sciences utilizing the science-based facility.

"There's art students that will come and get leaves for their projects which is really cool. And there's also been photography students that will come in and take pictures of the flowers," Reese said.

Besides the students, faculty, community members and plants that pass through the greenhouse doors, a celebrity animal to the biology department crawls through the rooms. His name is Snorkel, and he's in no hurry to beat any hare in a race. He's an African sulcata tortoise, who has settled in the green-

house for nine years now. You can find him moving ever-so slowly on the floor of the desert room.

"I think he's pretty cute. Also if you touch his shell, it's like a giant fingernail. So that's always fun," Reese said.

Many students come to the house not just to look at the plants but also take selfies with the tortoise.

"He's usually a pretty popular focal point of the greenhouse," Betz said.

Amongst the hundreds of plant species you can find in the various rooms, you'll see many people using the space for different reasons. Biology labs from the introductory level to the upper-division botany classes come through to study the different types of plant life. Many students choose to grow their plants in the greenhouse for their projects. To top it all off, even research from faculty members and graduate students can pursue their tasks with the space.

Dr. Mary Poulson, a professor in the biology department, calls the greenhouse "a living laboratory."

"I actually walk through [the greenhouse] every morning on my way to class. A lot of times I'll pick up a plant that shows something that I want to tell the students. I have labs over [there] too," Poulson said.

The greenhouse isn't just for experiments and data collecting. Many people come just to pick up a plant to take home. During open hours, members of the public can take a plant of their choice with a suggested donation, and get information from Betz and others on how to take care of them. Senior and chemistry major Audrey Vulcano comes to the greenhouse every week to add to her collection of over 30 plants. When asked what she likes the most about the greenhouse, she praised the atmosphere.

"Sweating in some of the rooms is healthy. I don't know if I'm going to be here long enough to do that, but it'd be good," Vulcano said.

Fellow CWU student Valerie Strasser is also a regular attendee of the open hours. She comes not for the atmosphere, but for the main reason the greenhouse exists.

"I like having [plants] on my desk. I feel like it's giving me some nice fresh oxygen in a relatively closed off space," Strasser said.

Other students like environmental science major Contessa King heaped praise upon the marvel that is the greenhouse.

"I love this place. I love plants. They're so cool and this is the most amazing place. They have so many species that you can't find at nurseries," King said.

She's right, as you won't find plants like the Venus flytrap grown naturally anywhere near Ellensburg. However, exotic plants like this can be found in the greenhouse's jungle room.

According to the Venus flytrap article in Encyclopedia Britannica, "the plant is native to a small region of North and South Carolina, where it is common in damp mossy areas."

Taking care of plants from far away places is just one of the many unique things about the greenhouse that you won't see in the regular outdoors of the Kittitas Valley.

If you are interested in picking up a plant to take care of yourself or gaze at the countless number of unique plant species and even meet Snorkel, you can visit the greenhouse every Friday from 1-3 p.m. The plants offered for pickup are free, but it is strongly suggested to donate any amount to keep the program running for future students.



Editor: Cassandra Hays

# Haru Matsuri celebrates Japanese culture

Mary Park  
Staff Reporter

The smell of takoyaki (a savory octopus snack), the loud rumbling of taiko drums and students wearing kimono and yukata were only a small slice of Japanese culture that was on display on Monday, April 22.

The annual Haru Matsuri— literally “Spring Festival” in Japanese— was held in the SURC Ballroom to celebrate Japanese culture.

Although it took place in the ballroom because of last year’s windy weather, this year’s theme was “night market.”

There were 10 food booths and activity booths, such as origami and kanji-naming, stationed throughout the ballroom.

At each booth, Japanese students from the Asian University America Program (AUAP) served food or gave instructions to the guests.

Performances such as taiko drumming, a fashion show and the Japanese “Fisherman’s Dance,” performed by AUAP students and students from Mount Stuart Elementary School, were another attraction at the festival.

Mounia Traore is a student program coordinator at the Diversity and Equity Center (DEC) and was the lead programmer for this year’s Haru Matsuri.

“[The event] allows AUAP students to celebrate even though they are not home, that they have a sense of home here,” Traore said. “It’s important for them to be included into the process and actually lead the booths because they know it better than we do.”

Traore said the festival also offered a



Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Haru Matsuri is a traditional Japanese festival held annually at CWU. All students are welcome to attend and experience just a sneak peak of Japanese culture.

learning opportunity for domestic students.

“[CWU] has a lot of diversity when you take into account all the different cultures that we have on campus, so it’s important for every student to try to learn more about this culture,” Traore said.

Mark Werdin is a student services coordinator of the AUAP program and has helped out with the event over the years.

Werdin said that Haru Matsuri provides the AUAP students a good chance to interact with domestic students.

“A lot of the times, AUAP students are here as a student, to learn about the American culture,” Werdin said. “But here, they’re the teachers, and showing off their culture.”

Aoi Magara is an intern at the Office of International Studies and Programs (OISP) and has helped coordinate the AUAP and University English as a Second Language (UESL) student volunteers.

Magara said Japanese students often find it difficult to talk to American students.

“Usually Japanese people are so polite, so [they might think] ‘if I speak wrong English, is it impolite?’” Magara said.

“I want [CWU students] to understand that we want to be friends with them and be involved with them so it’s nice to have this opportunity,” Magara added.

Yoko Hino, an AUAP student, helped at the onigiri food booth. Onigiri is a Jap-

anese food made up of rice and nori, or roasted seaweed.

In order to make one, Hino said you first “hold rice, make a triangle with seaweed on the outside.” Ingredients such as tuna, plum and salmon will fill the inside.

“My English is not good, and maybe I can’t [explain well], but I think to try is important,” Hino said.

Wakako Ban, a UESL student, said she participated in the fashion show.

“I [wore] Japanese traditional wear, like kimono or uniform,” Ban said. “After arriving here, I miss Japan so I’m excited that I will watch [Japanese performances] and eat Japanese food.”

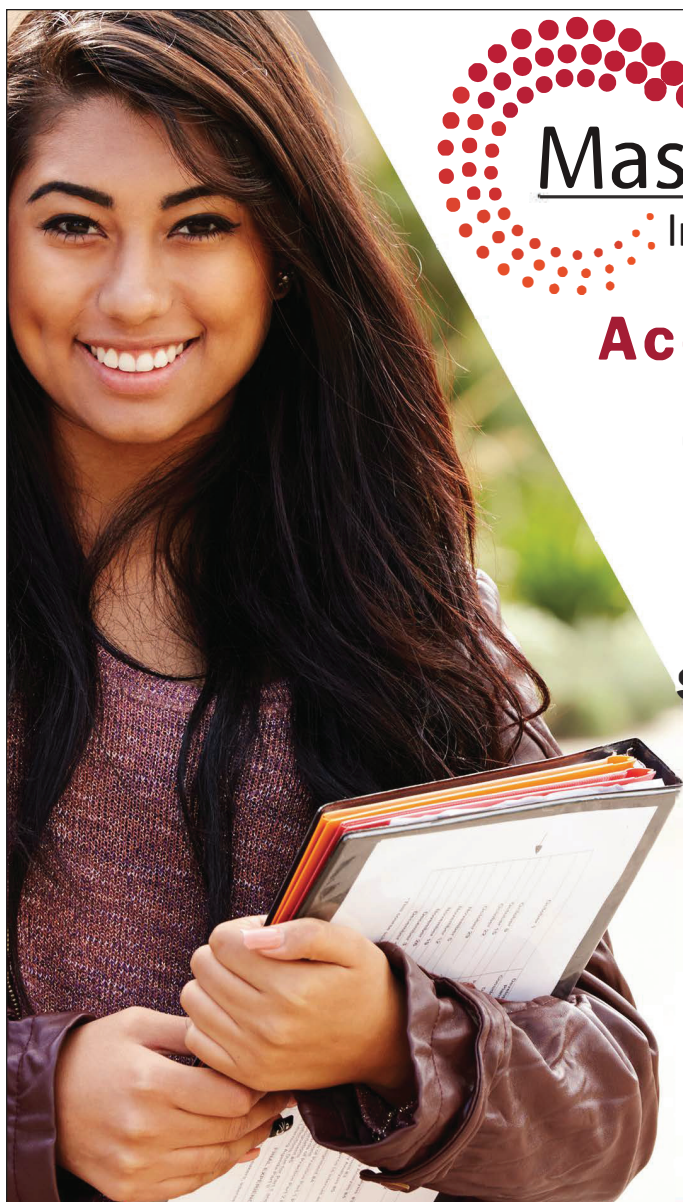
Ban said that she hesitated before signing up, but wanted people to learn more about Japanese culture.

“I don’t like to stand in front of an audience but I want to meet American people so I decided to join,” Ban said.

Werdin said CWU students and community members can continue to engage in Japanese culture by attending future events. The upcoming World Languages Day, which is on May 17, the quarterly International Cafe and the AUAP Japanese Summer Festival in July are some examples.

Traore said that after Haru Matsuri, people can take further steps to learn more about Japanese culture, but they should get to know more than one part of the culture.

“Since it’s a learning process, I will say for some people, it will probably be a shock because there’s always a [culture shock],” Traore said. “But they should be ready, be willing to actually learn the culture, the whole culture, everything included in it.”



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# CWU Rodeo Team gets the chance to show hometown pride

Story by: Emma Johnson    Design by: Will Yi    Photos by: Shawna Hettick

Continued from Page 1

"I just have fun, I don't think I would get paid much on the trail," Anderson said.

While the PRCA rodeo draws a larger crowd, Anderson hopes to draw more attention to the college rodeo level, bringing more community support to the local kids who go to school in Ellensburg.

CWU freshman Branden Ford decided to go to CWU because it was close to home. He joined the team because he has been doing rodeo his whole life, and he wanted to continue in college. Ford is a team roper. He is a heeler, and he and his partner have been fairly successful for their freshman year. They placed fourth in team roping at the last rodeo that took place April 12-14. Ford said he also wants to start steer wrestling, but has always done team roping.

Lindsay Sogge, a CWU sophomore and barrel racer, described what it is like competing in a PRCA level rodeo area.

"It is a great sneak peek at what it would be like to compete in PRCA rodeos," Sogge said.

The rodeo had two days of slack in the morning before the actual performance on Friday and Saturday night. There was a short-go on Sunday, in which the top qualifying contestants from Friday and Saturday come back to have the chance to improve their average.

The contestants competed in break-away calf roping, tie-down roping, team roping, barrel racing, goat tying, saddle broncs, bareback riding and bull riding. All of these events are timed, with a lower time producing a better score. The roughstock

events, which are saddle broncs, bareback and bull riding, are eight seconds long. From that eight seconds the contestant gets scored on how they were positioned on the animal and if they were kicking the horse or bull enough. The judges also base scores on how the animal is bucking, which reflects on the rider. The average for night one of the performance was about 70 points, with 100 points being the highest score a rider can get.

The roping events have a calf or steer, and competitors rope either the calves necks for calf roping or the horns and heels for the team roping. There is a barrier that the riders cannot cross until the calf or steer is out of the chutes fully. If the riders break the barrier, a full five seconds is added to their time,

which can affect their placing.

Goat tying consists of a rider running down to a goat on horse back, jumping off the horse while it is still running and tying three of four legs on the goat. The goat must stay tied for a certain amount of time to ensure the tie is correct.

Barrel racing is a clover shape pattern with three barrels. The contestants will either start with the left or right barrel and they will run as fast as they can around the barrels. If they knock a barrel over, there will be a five second penalty added to their times.

CWU was not the only school competing this weekend. Other colleges that competed included Walla Walla Community College, University of Idaho, Eastern Washington University and others.

"[The rodeo] brings people together because we have a wide range of other colleges who compete at the same rodeo."

-Lindsay Sogge



Pick up riders are in charge of making sure everyone in the arena stays safe during a rodeo, including people and animals.





Mikayla La Frenier is a barrel racer on the CWU Rodeo Team. Despite her horse stumbling on at the second barrel during slack Friday, she still had a very competitive go.



Tie-down roper Wade Brummer flanks his calf at the Todd Anderson Memorial Rodeo on Saturday. Brummer took third place in the Saturday/Sunday average.



Taylor Turner competed in breakaway roping on her horse Freckles. Breakaway roping is an event that does not actually stop the calf and just ropes them and lets the calf continue running.



Editor: Cassandra Hays

# Budgeting in college: The do's and don'ts

Austin Lane  
Staff Reporter

Budgeting your money correctly in college is tough. The amount of time spent in a classroom, doing homework, studying, being social and having a life leaves less room to work a job and have a steady flow of income.

Not having a steady income can create a problem. Expenses can include rent, groceries, gas and textbooks, just to name a few. For some students, college is the first time they have to worry about paying these expenses on their own. In my time at CWU, I've learned a couple things to do on a tight budget as well as some things that aren't so smart of a decision when the money is running low. Here are my experiences and a couple other students' tips on how to budget money as a college student.

**Do: Regularly check your bank account**

I check my bank account almost daily. It not only works to update you on what your current financial situation is, but it's also a good reminder that you're not Bill Gates. Senior Jocelyn Matheny agrees that checking your bank account regularly is helpful.

"I don't keep track of [my budget] on paper very well so I just check my bank app every now and then," Matheny said. "Sometimes I'm in a mode where I'm like 'save, save, save. Be good.' and then sometimes I switch and be like 'I'm a big baller, I can spend a lot this month.'"

Being a big baller is fun...as long as you know you can be by checking your bank account often.

**Don't: Have monthly subscriptions**

Monthly subscriptions are wallet killers. I'm a first-hand witness of what Ipsy, Birchbox, HelloFresh and Loot Crate are capable of. Flashy packaging and test items aren't worth \$10 every month, especially if you are tight on money in college.

Instead of letting Loot Crate loot your loot and letting HelloFresh say goodbye cash, pick some alternatives. If you feel the need for a monthly subscription, instead put \$10 a month into a pocket of one of your random pairs of pants. Six months later you will thank me.

Let's say you work 20 hours a week for minimum wage, but you have a couple monthly subscriptions that total \$30 after shipping and tax. That's about three percent of your monthly income. That might not sound like a lot, but when rent is over 50 percent of your average expenses, you'll be wanting back every cent you can get.



Photos by Bram Wiggins/The Observer  
Stores like Grocery Outlet (top) and Dollar Tree (bottom) are popular among those who are sticking to a tight budget. Both stores offer food and common household items for low prices.



**Do: Take full advantage of the FAFSA**

Many students rely on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for most of their income and for good reason. Low income students can get grants and higher income students can get loans to help with personal expenses.

The FAFSA is key to getting by if you do not have a job but are still paying many of the usual college expenses. Sophomore Anna Reed-Holmes does not have a job at the moment, but meticulously budgeted her FAFSA money to pay for expenses.

"My husband and I pretty much rely on financial aid. We are both independents because we're married so we get the maximum amount of financial aid," Reed-Holmes said. "We're using that for now to help pay for our expenses and help save for our wedding."

Technically I'm not recommending this, but getting married and then using the added bonus from filing the FAFSA as a married couple to help pay for the wedding is just over-the-top genius. Well played Anna.

**Don't: Forget about student discounts and free food opportunities on campus**

Discounts on food are offered in a couple places around town. That's basically a company giving you free money back on your order, and who doesn't like free money? Also, campus events will sometimes have free food just for showing up. A couple examples I can think of off the top of my head are study nights in the Brooks Library (free waffles) and PolyFest (barbeque). PolyFest 2019 is coming up soon, on May 2. Senior Bailey Kinker takes advantage of student discounts off campus.

"I know Sugar Thai [Cuisine] isn't a fast food place but I like getting food there because they have extras. They have student discounts and by the time you eat half your meal, which gets you full, you have tomorrow's meal too," Kinker said.

Other restaurants in town that offer a student discount include Copper Kettle, IHOP, Jack in the Box, Perkins, Pizza Hut, Rodeo City BBQ, Utopia Frozen Yogurt and Coffee House and Yellow Church Cafe.

Living on a college budget is hard. These are only a few tips on things you can do. For more help with budgeting you can visit the CWU Budget Planning and Analysis Office on the second floor of Mitchell hall, and at cwu.edu/budget you can watch a financial planning and analysis Q & A video.

## Student Discounts

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| -Copper Kettle: 10%   | <b>Other Deals:</b>        |
| -IHOP: 20%            | Spotify + Hulu + Showtime: |
| -Jack in the Box: 15% | \$4.99/month               |
| -Perkins: 10%         | Apple Music: \$4.99/month  |
| -Utopia: 20%          | Amazon Prime: 6 months     |
|                       | free, then \$59/year       |



Editor: Hanson Lee

# Gonzaga basketball must create the Pac-13

Dez Rodriguez

Columnist

The Gonzaga Basketball Program won't win a National Championship until they leave the West Coast Conference (WCC) behind. Gonzaga has already established themselves as one of the top college basketball programs in the nation. They have opened up a season 29-0 on their way to a team high 37 wins, they are the first team to have appeared in five consecutive sweet sixteens, and have been to the NCAA basketball tournament for the past 20 straight years according to ESPN.

However, what us Gonzaga basketball fans fail to talk about is what happens deep in the tournament. Only three elite eight appearances, one final four and one championship appearance where they lost to North Carolina in 2017. For a team with so much success during the regular season, these numbers should be higher. The problem isn't the coaching staff or the players, it's the competition that the WCC provides.

The mid-major conference does nothing to prepare Gonzaga for the next level of competition in the NCAA tournament. The Zags have been to every WCC conference championship game since 1998, winning 16 of the past 20 years. According to Gonzaga's schedule results, at one point last season they had a 30.1 points average margin of victory. Teams don't win by 30 points when

March Madness comes around.

There are some options available. The Pac-12, Big East and Mountain West Conference (MWC) all provide a step up in competition from the WCC. But, the geography of the Big East and the minimal competition jump to the MWC make these unlikely. This leaves the Pac-12, which is the best option anyway for Gonzaga.

People will be quick to jump to the fact that Gonzaga does not have a football team which would make the switch "too difficult." Tell that to Wichita State, who made the move to join the American Athletic Conference (AAC) without a football program in 2017. Their allegiance to the Missouri Valley Conference dating back to 1945 didn't stop them because of the powerhouse basketball program that they have.

Playing against better competition is beneficial in more ways than one. According to the NCAA Membership Financial Reporting System, Wichita State University netted \$1.37 million in revenue in their first season as a member of the AAC. That's plenty for the athletic department to work with.

Revenue should be even higher if Gonzaga made the switch. Ticket sales would skyrocket for matchups that include tilts against Oregon, Arizona and UCLA twice a year. It would also magnify the intensity of cross-state rivalries against University of Washington and Washington State University.

Going back to the whole "no football

problem." Notre Dame, another who's a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) with the likes of Duke and Virginia, doesn't have a football team in the conference. They made the switch from the Big East to the ACC in 2013 and many would argue that their program has greatly improved since.

Crazy things happen in the NCAA tournament, but Gonzaga is way too good of a basketball program to not be seeing more results. They must be willing to make the switch if they want to win a National Championship. After all, the Pac-13 does have a better ring to it.



Graphic by Will Yi

# Sustainable spending can be a selfish act

Teagan Kimbro

Columnist

Sustainability, a word that is heard now more than ever, generally is perceived as an abstract cause. However, as a student, sustainability efforts are easy and will directly benefit you in ways that aren't abstract. For example, purchasing from bulk bins on average saves the customer 56 percent. Depending on the purchase, this may only save a few cents, but the average college student, according to reference.com, spends \$80-120 on groceries per month bringing the savings up to \$67 dollars. Switching to buying bulk saves money and furthermore reduces the amount of packaging significantly. Each bulk item purchased is packaging that isn't used, especially if you begin bringing your own reusable packaging to the store. Researchers at Portland State found that if all Americans made this switch it could save tens of millions pounds of waste from landfills, on top of the \$67 saved per by individuals per month.

Not only do small and eco-friendly changes benefit your wallet, but they will improve your health. In the warmer months, choosing to ride a bike rather than a car can improve concentration in school, save money, and increase your well being while reducing gas emissions. From even the outskirts of Ellensburg, bike rides to campus take less than 20 minutes. This ultimately makes for 40 minutes of cardiovascular exercise per day while subtracting travel time. Increasing exercise has proven to improve concentration and mental clarity, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, help with weight loss and the list continues on, according to the American Interconti-

nental University. Furthermore, students who exercise regularly have a higher GPA than those who don't, according to Mike McKenzie, PhD, chair of exercise physiology sports medicine at Winston-Salem State University. If none of that sounds appealing, just think about how much time could be saved by not looking for parking.

Sustainability not only has selfish outcomes, but it can have selfish motivations. According to State of Glob-

al Air, a child born today will live 20 months less than adults today due to global air quality decreasing alone. There are also concerns regarding flooding, heat, and natural disasters if action is not taken. Choosing to be aware of one's environmental impact, ultimately is one of the most selfish things someone can do in order to help prevent some of these issues. Although sustainability isn't something

to overwhelm anyone with. It cannot be solved by one individual. It can be helped through small actions such as buying in bulk or riding a bike. In the long run, it will help a greater purpose, but as students, often our lives can't and shouldn't revolve around worrying about sustainability. However, small and sustainable changes impact the world's health, but more importantly, your own well being.



Graphic by Will Yi



# CTE growing prevalence in collegiate athletics

*Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) is a brain disease that’s found in people with a history of repetitive brain trauma. The NCAA as a whole isn’t taking appropriate action to combat the disease, but CWU is*

**Austin Lane**  
*Columnist*

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) is a dangerously growing disease found more and more in college athletics, especially college football.

CTE is described by Boston University as, “a progressive degenerative disease of the brain found in people with a history of repetitive brain trauma (often athletes), including symptomatic concussions as well as asymptomatic subconcussive hits to the head that do not cause symptoms.”

In 2018, the Concussion Legacy Foundation found that 147 colleges had former football players diagnosed with CTE. Locally, the University of Washington had four former players diagnosed with the disease. One of them, Daniel Te’o-Nesheim, committed suicide in 2017. Also locally, former Washington State University quarterback Tyler Hilinski committed suicide in early 2018. Hilinski was also found to have CTE in a post-mortem brain biopsy.

A big way to combat CTE is to teach future generations more about the disease and CWU does a great job doing that.

CWU offers a class, Exercise Science 348, that goes over how to prevent and treat athletic injuries.



Photo courtesy of CWU Athletics

There’s also the athletic training minor offered for students interested in learning more about being an athletic trainer. An athletic trainer is one of the most important people on a college campus.

I’m not a student athlete, but in my years of speaking with athletes on campus, I’ve heard nothing but great things about CWU Head Athletic Trainer Isaac Perry. Perry works alongside assistants Jake Decker and Amy Dehmer as well as graduate as-

sistants Trey Vincent, Bryce Ensor, Bianca Mendez and Tim Dimango.

Something that CWU does to prevent head injuries on the football team is use extra padded helmets during practice. The helmet is called the “guardian cap” and was invented by a mother that was scared for her son’s health playing football. According to guardiancaps.com, the helmet padding reduces up to 33 percent of impact.

The guardian cap is not used

in spring practices by the football teams at the University of Washington, Washington State University and Eastern Washington University. This is especially alarming for UW and WSU after the recent suicides of Te’o-Nesheim and Hilinski.

CWU is leading the pack of the four NCAA football teams in the state with the implementation of the new padded helmets. The three other teams should have started using them by now. Also, the NCAA should just make the padded helmets a requirement. Using padded helmets has no negative effects and the positive effects are obvious, it helps to prevent CTE.

The NCAA is in some heat recently regarding CTE. In September 2018, CBS News reported that the NCAA was facing four wrongful death lawsuits over football head injuries. If the past has proven anything, it’s that the NCAA cares more about the money they make than the student-athletes themselves. That’s why they haven’t ruled padded helmets to be required.

Until the day comes that the NCAA actually chooses to care for once and do something about a growing problem, college athletes will continue to be in danger. Thankfully for CWU, padded helmets and smart trainers are triumphing over missing guidelines.

# TheObserver

By the students For the students

Adverstising: Cait Dalton Email: caitilin.dalton@cwu.edu

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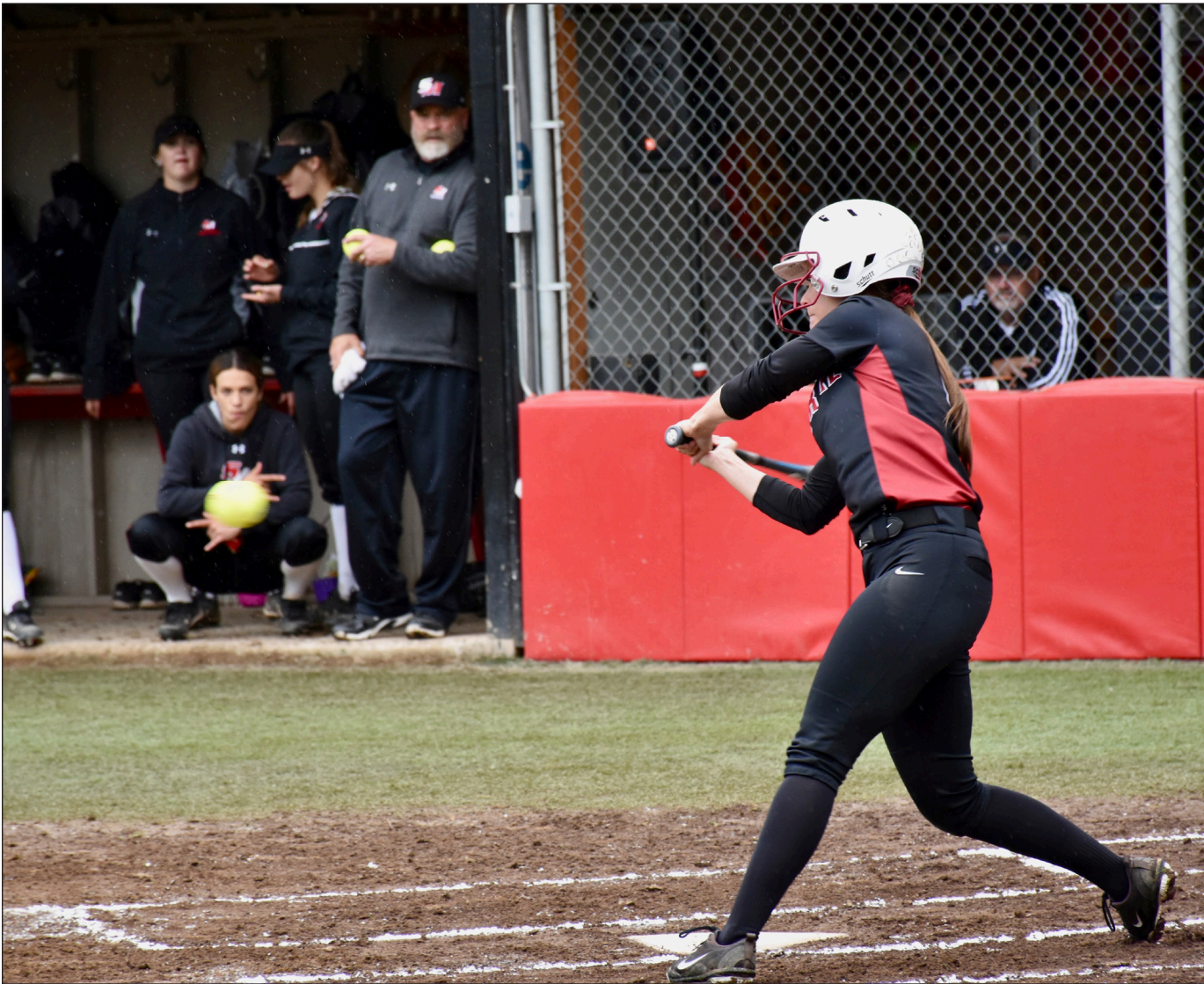
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Editor: Nick Jahnke

# Softball eyes GNAC title



## Bryce Weedman

Senior Sports Reporter

On May 2, the GNAC's top four teams will play in the conference tournament. CWU Softball finds themselves in first place with an overall record of 28-14 and a conference record of 19-5, according to the GNAC website.

Concordia University is in second place at 16-8 in the conference, and still has a shot of stealing first place away from the Wildcats. The GNAC website shows CWU has won eight out of the last 10 games in their schedule, and has outscored opponents by 35

“

We may be at the top, but nothing is concrete, and every game determines something.

**Taylor Williams, pitcher**

”

runs. Head coach Mike Larabee said the offense is clicking and so is pitching. Led by junior Taylor Williams and sophomore Lexie Strasser, the Wildcats pitching has been a strong point for the Wildcats, according to Larabee. Williams is sporting a 3.81 earned runs average and is 6-2 in her 49.2 innings pitched. Strasser has a 3.73 earned runs average and is 13-8 in her 142.1 innings pitched, which is the highest amount of innings out of anyone on the team according to CWU athletics. Larabee has continued to tell the Wildcats they play one game at a time, and do not underestimate any opponent. Larabee said the motto for the season has been “catching excellence.”

“No one is going into these final games thinking that one team has something to worry about and the other isn't,” Williams said. “We may be at the top, but nothing is concrete, and every game determines something.”

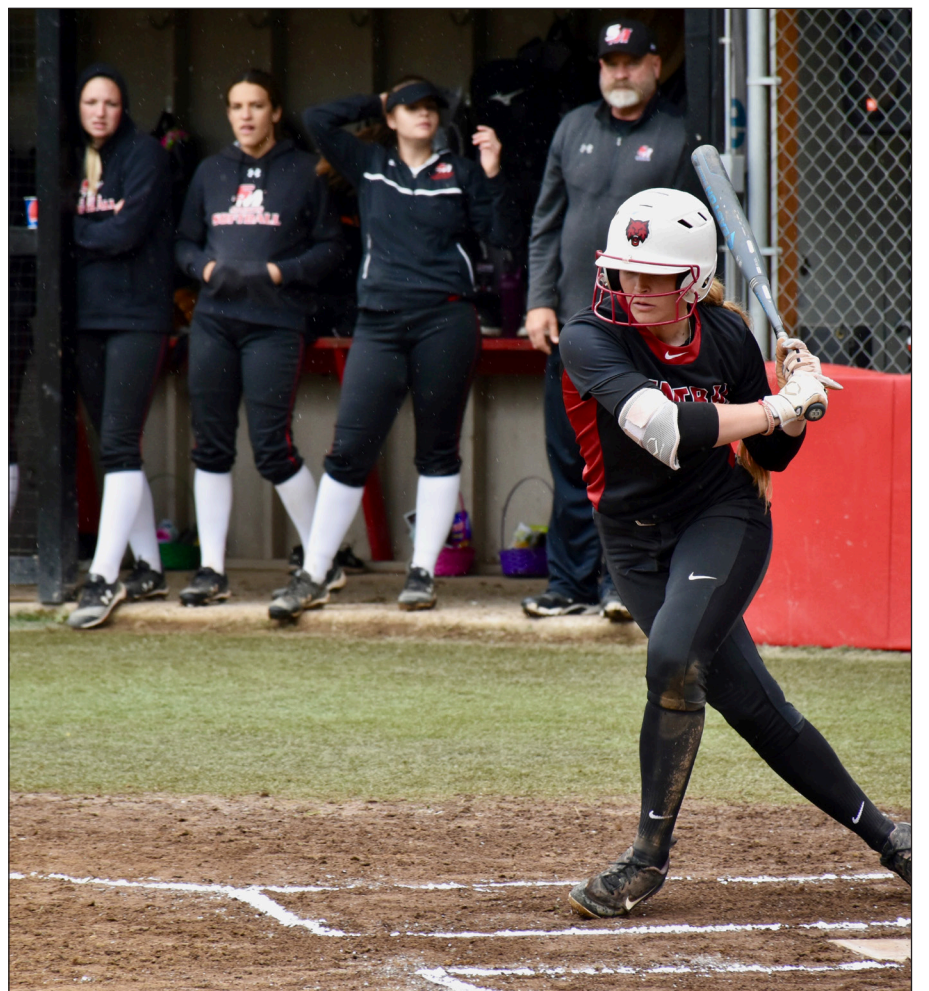
As the regular season is coming to a close, the Wildcats have their eye set on a GNAC title, according to senior Savannah Egbert. CWU has been in this position in previous years, but Egbert said she would like to see the team go all the way. CWU will have to beat some tough teams. According to the GNAC website, five of the eight teams in the conference have winning records. Egbert said there is more competition this year as a whole conference than in past years. CWU athletics shows that only eight of the 21 players on the roster are juniors or seniors. Egbert said that everyone's goal is to make it as far as possible in post-season, but knows that the seniors want it so much because it's their last year.

“We want to make it as far as we can go, and if we play at the highest level we can play, then we can definitely get there,” Egbert said. “We've seen the teams that are competing with us, and we are right there with all of them.”

CWU's website says that another player who is helping the team out offensively is outfielder, junior Kayla Smith. Smith is hitting .328 batting average, 11 doubles, .416 slugging percentage, and has a .356 on base percentage.

“I'm sure all of the seniors can attest to this, but just keeping the positive energy in practices, because if you do it in practice then it carries over into games,” Smith said.

When CWU begins the first round of the GNAC tournament, it will not be played close to home, according to the GNAC website. The tournament



Photos by Bryce Weedman/The Observer

Softball is gearing up to play in the GNAC conference tournament. CWU currently holds first place with Concordia University trailing in second.

will be played in Billings, Montana where the fences are very short compared to other fields of GNAC competitors, according to Larabee.

CWU has not been past the GNAC tournament since 2016 according to CWU athletics. That year, they made it past West Regionals and moved on to Super Regionals where they lost

two games to Humboldt State and were eliminated. That year the Wildcats finished 42-17 overall and 18-10 in the GNAC. This season the Wildcats are already ahead of that pace. At 28-14 overall, and 19-5 in the conference, the Wildcats have a chance to go farther, and finish better than the 2016 team.



Editor: Nick Jahnke

# Making plays on the field and in the classroom

Nick Jahnke  
Sports Editor

Members of the football team are charged with attending position meetings, workouts and practices, all of which take away from time they could be using for their studies. Players are referred to as “student-athletes” but for the individual player and for the team as a whole, what comes first? Student or athlete?

Senior linebacker Grady Graff said that during the fall season, he has almost no free-time. Graff said between his job updating floor plans for CWU, his academic and athletic responsibilities, he only has a

few hours during the week to relax. According to Graff, in a normal (in-season) day he has to be at work at 7 a.m. and doesn’t make his way home from classes and football practice until after 6 p.m. He said that some days, he had an additional practice in the morning that required him to meet with the team before 6 a.m.

When students are failing to meet academic standards set by the coaching staff, they are subjected to penalties based on a four strike system. Graff said the first strike means consequences for the individual player and as the player racks up more strikes,

the consequences affect their position groups and then the whole team. According to Graff, if a player reaches the fourth and final strike, the coaches must consider whether they will remain on the team.

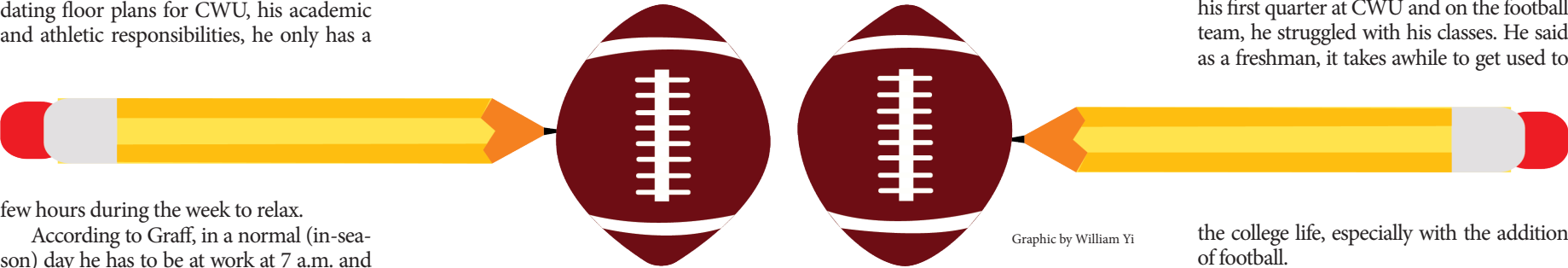
Graff said that even in the off-season, players are still kept busy with workouts and team meetings. He said coaches don’t go easy on players just because they’re not in-season, and the level of academic monitoring remains the same.

by having people go around and peak inside classrooms and if players aren’t meeting the standard, they are counted as missing for the day.

“Going to class is part of having a good, winning program,” Bills said. “If you can’t go to class, then you’re not going to do the little things that matter on the football field.”

Bills said that one of his goals as academic coordinator is to bring the team’s overall GPA up to a 3.0. The current GPA is a 2.8, which according to Bills, isn’t a bad place to start.

Freshman receiver Trey Mason said in his first quarter at CWU and on the football team, he struggled with his classes. He said as a freshman, it takes awhile to get used to



Graphic by William Yi

the college life, especially with the addition of football.

Mason said along with him managing his time better, the coaches played a role in getting him back on track. He said the coaches keep them accountable by checking attendance in study hall and even requiring freshman players to check into their classes via GPS.

“To me, [academics] comes first, and then there’s football,” Mason said. “You can’t go anywhere with bad grades. You can’t step on the field and you can’t graduate college or get a degree.”

first group being “at-risk.” Bills said the better players do in class, the more freedom they are given.

“Our goal is to have [players] go home and not have to do homework,” Bills said.

Tweaks to the way football does class checks are one of the things Bills said he has brought over. Bills said that players are expected to sit in the front three rows in all their classes, and they are not allowed to wear hoods or have their headphones in. Bills said coaches enforce these standards

# Rafting offers outdoor adventure

Austin Lane  
Staff Reporter

Rafting is an activity that is available during the spring and summer here in Central Washington. It’s an activity that can cure the need for something to do in the area. Students are not limited to one choice when it comes to rafting.

One option is going through Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) for a rafting trip. On Saturday, May 18, there will be a Yakima River rafting trip hosted by OPR. All rafting gear and transportation is included with the cost of the trip that departs from OPR at 10 a.m. There will be a pre-trip meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15. That is also the day the pre-registration that is required for going on the trip is due. The cost of the trip is \$33 for CWU students and \$40 for non-students. Students may use student charge to pay for the trip.

Outside of the planned trip, OPR also rents out rafts. The raft package costs \$36 per day for students and includes a raft, four paddles, one hand pump and six personal floatation devices, also known as life jackets.

The trip leader for the OPR rafting trip on May 18 is Ava Barabasz. One thing Barabasz said she noticed is that students are usually nervous before the trip. After the trip, however, students feel accomplished.

“Even I was really nervous when I first started rafting,” Barabasz said. “Over time that confidence built up. I see a lot more confidence in the participants after doing rafting trips because they were a part of the work.”

Rafting is different from other OPR trips as it relies on teamwork to get through the trip. According to Barabasz, unlike hiking or biking, team building is a big part of

rafting trips.

“It’s so fulfilling cause you get to grow and then you see people growing at the same time,” Barabasz said. “You always learn something new every time you go out no matter what the trip is.”

OPR stays open throughout the year, not just during fall through spring quarter. OPR trip leader Kendra Turner said she wishes that students knew more about their opportunities to get out and do activities.

“It is tough in the summer, there’s not that many students around,” Turner said. “Our biggest way to get people to sign up is people sharing their experiences and then we get other people to sign up as well.”

Another option for students wanting to go rafting is the Troutwater Fly Shop in Cle Elum. The shop hosts rafting trips starting around the end of May or early June to around early September.

According to the shop’s website, the two river rafting options they feature are a “River Float” and a “Gourmet Lunch River Float.” The “River Float” option is \$95 per person with a minimum of three people per group. You can choose to float either the Yakima River or the Cle Elum River. Trips are available every day at any time. The trip takes about three to four hours and includes a selection of beverages, simple snacks, dry bags for clothing and electronics, sun screen, toilet tissue, first aid kit and a personal floatation device for each person.

The “Gourmet Lunch River Float,” which costs \$120 per person with a minimum of three people, offers similar things as the “River Float” but adds more options for food on the river of your choice. The morning trip features an omelet bar breakfast on the river or for trips during lunch or dinner you can have a grilled sockeye salmon with



Courtesy of OPR

OPR offers rafting trips throughout the spring. Their first trip of 2019 is on Saturday, May 18 and departs from OPR at 10 a.m.

appetizers, dessert and beverages. The shop handles groups big and small and the biggest group they have done a trip with was 72 people. Also, according to their website, “water guns are included for epic water battles between rafts.”

Troutwater Fly Shop rafting guide Gabe Wegener said he believes that the rafting trips offer a good chance to relax and enjoy a day on the water.

“A lot of times people seem really content and really happy,” Wegener said. “We get a lot of people who are nervous about doing it and about being on a boat in a river, but by the end of the day they are very happy with the experience they’ve had and being able to enjoy the river peacefully.”



Editor: Nick Jahnke

# Intramurals kick off B season

**Bryce Weedman**  
Senior Sports Reporter

The second half of spring intramurals is here, and the recreation team is prepared to give the best experience to participating students, according to Coordinator of Intramurals and Special Events Jordan Bishop.

CWU.edu mentions that the recreation team has decided to stagger its intramural seasons. Each quarter will have an A season and a B season which will allow for more facility space and staffing so that CWU Recreation can offer participants better times to play. Spring's B season is among us, and that means that soccer, basketball and softball have started. Bishop said there are some things to emphasize, like dodgeball not getting enough registration.

Soccer will be an Elite Sport this spring. Each quarter one intramural sport is offered as an Elite Sport. This sport will be tracked with statistics for each of the games. This means participants will be able to see their rank against their competitors. The statistics will show things like points scored, assists and blocks. Along with Elite Sports, the recreation team will continue to post their weekly matchups on Instagram. They will spotlight two players from two teams



Courtesy of CWU Intramurals

B season of intramural sports began on April. 22. Flag football and volleyball were traded out for softball, outdoor soccer and basketball.

and post a pregame preview on Instagram, then a post game comparison, according to Bishop.

"The posts where we feature [students] are by far and above the posts that get the most interactions," Bishop said. "They definitely like to see their friends. They like to see themselves, plus it just unfolds the story more of intramural sports."

One of the goals for recreation is to continue growing their social media and online presence. Bishop said they have continued to get better at spreading news of intramurals, and the growth is in the numbers. Back in 2016-17, recreation's social media was getting 10.7 likes per post on average. In 2017-18 the average likes per post

went up to 23 likes. Now the average likes per post are at 26.5, according to the data that Bishop keeps track of. Each year there has been a jump in social media following. Bishop attributes a lot of that to the fact that recreation decided to dedicate a full time marketing position for intramurals. This has allowed for recreation to spend more time on making social media more of a priority.

"I think the quality of our content is improving. I think we have better outreach, and our outreach efforts have been improving and then obviously the style of our content has changed as well," Bishop said. "This is my second year, and it's something I'm really proud of."

Senior Mitchell Dorman is doing his senior internship for recreation. He has some ideas about expanding intramural sports with one more sport. Disk golf is something that Dorman is very passionate about. Dorman said there is an increasing interest, and growth in the sport. Dorman has brought the idea to recreation's attention, and hopes to make it happen.

"My dream is to set disk golf as an intramural sport. It's not going to be this year. This year is over," Dorman said. "Next spring, the weather is nice, and we have the equipment for it."



## Central Park

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2019 - 2020

STUDENT GOVERNMENT



ELECTIONS

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APRIL 25

ASCWU STUDENT GOVERNMENT GENERAL ELECTIONS

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VP STUDENT LIFE AND FACILITIES  
VP EQUITY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS







YOUR VOTE IMPACTS THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS.  
USE YOUR VOICE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!





Editor: Hanson Lee

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
					
70/46	64/41	58/38	59/38	60/38	62/38

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 9 mph.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 21 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 19 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of rain and winds around 11 mph.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain and winds around 11 mph.

**Tuesday:** Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of rain and winds around 14 mph.

Data sourced from weather.com. Information current as of publication date. Weather subject to change.

Bryce’s Hot Take

Senior sports reporter Bryce Weedman is determined to give you his weekly hot take in today’s fast moving sports world.



Tiger Woods is the greatest comeback story of all time

After Tiger ‘Eldrick’ Woods won his fifth green jacket in early April, so much rushed to my mind. Woods had been winless in majors in an 11 year time span. Not since the 09’ U.S. Open had Woods added to that pile of major championships. It was like we were just all waiting for the old Tiger to return. In 2018, Woods held a share of the lead in the British open, and we all held are breath. Is this it? Tigers fifteenth major. Then he came up short after making some late round mistakes. Then it was Woods and Koepka going head to head at the U.S. Open in 2018, and once again we thought this was his time. Once again we saw Woods fall short. Woods won the PGA Tour championship in September, 2018. As he putted in his last shot and gave that classic Tiger fist pump, we all fist pumped with him. That wasn’t even close to how big winning his fifth green jacket was. Not only did he get even closer to Jack Nicklaus’s record eighteen majors, but he did it in such Tiger fashion. Let’s look at his timeline. The sex scandal comes out publicly, and then Woods attends sex therapy. Woods goes through four back surgeries. Then there is the DUI. Finally, he goes through back fusion surgery. I mean the guy has been humiliated publicly, broken spiritually, physically beaten down, and yet he still finds a way to win probably one of the most memorable tournaments of all time. Tiger Woods is the G.O.A.T. Tom Brady who? No, listen to me, Tiger ‘Eldrick’ Woods is the greatest of all time.

Until next week, Bryce Weedman

This week in Observer history



On April 29, 2008, CWU began construction for the university’s challenge course. The project at the time was three years in the making and was worth an estimated \$190,000.

Today, the challenge course is open to anybody at CWU and in the Ellensburg community.



By Teagan Kimbro

HYPE  
WHAT’S HAPPENING

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25**  
**ASCWU General Elections Voting**  
12:01 a.m. - 6 p.m. online at <https://ballot.votebuilder.com/cwu>  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the SURC  
Use your voice and VOTE TODAY!

**Graphic Design Exhibit: Selected Works from CWU students**  
4 - 5 p.m. • Barge 302  
Corporate identity, branding, UI design, package design, posters, more from Dept. of Art + Design.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25 - SUNDAY, APRIL 28**  
**Round the Mountain (A Ghostlight Lab Production)**  
Various Times • Milo Smith Tower Theatre • [cwu.edu/tickets](http://cwu.edu/tickets)  
How would you act during your final moments on earth? Find out for yourself during this “

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**  
**Campus NEW Leadership Conf.**  
8 - 6 p.m. • Douglas Honors College [bit.ly/2HK53SO](http://bit.ly/2HK53SO)  
This program encourages college women to learn more and consider political and public service careers.

**Earth Month: Downtown Cleanup**  
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. • SURC Pit  
Join the CLCE, the Ellensburg Downtown Association, and the City of Ellensburg! Register in SURC 256.

**Earth Day Family Festival and Salmon Run**  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Dean Hall Lobby, Science Lawn • [museum@cwu.edu](mailto:museum@cwu.edu)  
Family event features music, dance performances, educational activities, and “Salmon Run” 5K/10K!

**MONDAY, APRIL 29**  
**ASCWU Public Meeting**  
1 p.m. • SURC Pit • Open to all!

**General Education Info Session**  
3-4 p.m. • SURC Theatre  
Learn what you need to know about changes to the Gen Ed program.

**Monday Movie Madness: Venom**  
7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free/\$3  
A journalist becomes the host of a powerful, symbiotic alien that gives him superhuman abilities.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30**  
**Student Academic Senate Meeting**  
6-7 p.m. • Black 151 • Open to all!

**Campus Activities: Jackbox**  
8 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free  
Play Jackbox, make friends, snack!

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**  
**Bike 2 Campus Day**  
7:45 - 10 a.m. • Two check-in locations: Walnut Mall & Nicholson Boulevard, Walnut Mall & University Way  
Pre-register by 8 p.m. April 30 to be eligible for prizes!  
<https://bit.ly/2PmaVn5>

**Culture and Identity Celebration: Asian Pacific Islander and Jewish-American Heritage**  
1-3 p.m. • SURC Pit • Free  
Enjoy cake and learn more!

**CWU.EDU/TICKETS**  
Diversity Awards  
Family Weekend  
and much more!



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